



Normanton Urban District Council

ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT =====

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1947.

W. M. MCKIE, M.B. CH.B. D.F.H.
Resigned 30th September, 1947.

Divisional Medical Officer of Health
and Divisional School Medical Officer

J. M. PATERSON, M.B. CH.B. D.P.H. M.R. SAN.I.
Appointed 1st October, 1947.

Sanitary Inspector

E. RIDDIOUGH, M.R.S.I., A.M.I.S.E., M.S.I.A.

COUNCIL OFFICES,
NORMANTON.

A. HAWKINS,
CLERK.

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF NORMANTON.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

as at 31st December, 1947.

Chairman.

Cr. Appleyard, J.P.

Councillors.

Crs. Appleyard, J.P.

Armstrong.

B. Bacon, C.C.

J. Bacon.

Blakeley.

Chivers.

Clarke.

Eden.

England.

H. Hall.

S. Hall.

Harbidge.

Hargrave.

Mackinnon.

Metcalf.

Moorhouse.

Potts.

Pyrar.

Sunley.

Sylvester.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

PART-TIME MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

W. M. McKie, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Resigned 30th September,
1947)

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

J. M. Paterson, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., M.R.San.I. (Appointed
1st October, 1947)

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Mr. E. Riddiough, M.R.S.I., A.M.I.S.E., M.S.I.A.

Clerical Staff under the Sanitary Inspector.

Mr. A. Sylvester (Commenced duties 17th November, 1947
after returning from the forces).

Miss M. Byrne (Commenced duties 15th September, 1947).

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF NORMANTON.

ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT.

1947.

To the Chairman and members of the Normanton Urban District Council.

I have the honour of presenting to you, this my first Annual Report, being a report of the health of your district, for the year 1947.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (acres).....	3,061
Population (Estimated R.G.)	18,990
Number of inhabited houses	5,294
Rateable value	£73,133
Sum represented by a penny rate	£276
Density of population	6.2 persons per acre.

The Urban District is divided into 6 wards, namely:-
Woodhouse, Altofts, Common, Normanton Part 1,
Normanton Part 2, Normanton Part 3.

Vital Statistics.

Births.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Live. Legitimate	187	203	390
Illegitimate.....	5	5	10
	<u>192</u>	<u>208</u>	<u>400</u>
Still. Legitimate.....	4	4	8
Illegitimate.....	1	1	2
	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>10</u>
Total Births.....	<u>197</u>	<u>213</u>	<u>410</u>

BIRTH RATES.

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1946</u>
Live Births (per 1,000 estimated population).	21.1	18.3
Still Births (per 1,000 Civilian population).	0.52	0.73
Live and Still Births (per 1,000 estimated population).	21.6	19.0

DEATH RATES (per 1,000 estimated population).

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1946</u>
All Causes (Crude)	11.8	11.6
Zymotic Diseases	0.21	0.05
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	0.16	0.63
Other forms of Tuberculosis	0.11	0.11
Respiratory Diseases (excluding T.B.)	1.90	1.05
Cancer	1.95	2.27
Heart and Circulatory Diseases	2.63	2.95
Puerperal Causes (per 1,000 live & still births):-		
Puerperal Sepsis	0.00	0.00
Other puerperal causes	0.00	0.00
Death Rate of infants under one year of age:-		
All infants per 1,000 live births	55.00	46.00
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	56.00	46.00
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births.	0.00	0.00
Death rate of infants from diarrhoea under two years of age per 1,000 live births.	10.00	2.87

The deaths of infants under one year of age were:-

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate.	9	13	22
Illegitimate.	-	-	-
	<u>9</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>22</u>

DEATHS.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

(Deaths taken from the Registrar General's tables)

	1947			1946		
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers...	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-spinal fever.....	1	-	1	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever.....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria.....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis of respiratory..... system	1	2	3	8	4	12
Other forms of Tuberculosis.....	2	-	2	1	1	2
Syphilitic diseases.....	1	-	1	-	1	1
Influenza.....	-	1	1	-	1	1

CAUSES OF DEATH (Contd.)

	1947			1946		
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Measles.....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis & Polio-encephalitis.....	1	-	1	-	-	-
Acute infectious encephalitis....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cancer.....	20	17	37	23	20	43
Diabetes.....	-	1	1	1	3	4
Intra-cranial vascular lesions...	8	16	24	13	17	30
Heart Disease.....	26	19	45	24	23	47
Other diseases of the circulatory system	2	3	5	6	3	9
Bronchitis.....	8	8	16	5	4	9
Pneumonia.....	13	3	16	2	7	9
Other respiratory diseases.....	2	2	4	2	-	2
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum.....	2	-	2	5	2	7
Diarrhoea (under 2 years).....	1	3	4	-	1	1
Appendicitis.....	1	-	1	2	-	2
Other digestive diseases.....	-	3	3	2	4	6
Nephritis.....	2	-	2	1	2	3
Puerperal and post-abortionalsis	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other maternal causes.....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Premature Birth.....	1	3	4	1	2	3
Congenital malformations, birth injury, etc.	2	8	10	1	1	2
Suicide.....	1	-	1	2	-	2
Road traffic accidents.....	-	-	-	1	-	1
Other violent causes.....	7	2	9	3	1	4
All other causes.....	16	16	32	11	10	21
	<u>118</u>	<u>107</u>	<u>225</u>	<u>114</u>	<u>107</u>	<u>221</u>

PRINCIPAL VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1947.

Based on Registrar-General's Figures.

	Norman- ton Urban Dis- trict.	Aggregate West Riding Urban Districts.	West Riding Admin. County.	England & Wales. (Provi- sional figures.
BIRTH RATE (per 1,000 estimated population)	21.1	21.6	21.5	20.5
DEATH RATES:) (All per 1,000 estimated population)				
All causes.	11.8	12.7	12.3	12.0
Zymotic Diseases (seven principal) X	0.21	0.16	0.16	XX
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.	0.16	0.38	0.39	0.47
Other forms of Tuberculosis.	0.11	0.09	0.09	0.08
Respiratory Diseases * (excluding tuberculosis of respiratory system).	1.90	1.41	1.37	XX
Cancer	1.95	1.87	1.80	1.35
Heart and Circulatory Diseases Ø	2.63	1.23	3.98	XX
INFANT MORTALITY (Deaths under one year per 1,000 live births)	55	44	45	41
DIARRHOEA (Deaths in infants under 2 years of age per 1,000 live births)	10.00	5.17	5.31	5.8
MATERNAL MORTALITY. (Deaths of Mothers in childbirth per 1,000 live and still births)				
Puerperal Sepsis	-	0.24	0.21	0.26
Other Causes	-	0.88	1.07	0.91
Total	-	1.12	1.28	1.17

X Combined death rate from Smallpox (if any), scarlet fever, enteric fever, diphtheria, measles, whooping cough, also diarrhoea in infants under 2 years of age.

* Combined death rate from Bronchitis, Pneumonia and other respiratory diseases, excluding Tuberculosis of the respiratory system.

Ø Combined death rate from Heart Disease and other Diseases of the circulatory system.

XX Figures not available.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1947 SHOWN IN AGE GROUPS.

Notified Diseases.	Under 1 yr.	1-3	3-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	25 & over.	No age.	Total.	Removed to Hospital.	Deaths.
Notified Diseases.											
Measles.	21	70	137	88	9	5	3	-	333	-	-
Whooping Cough.	10	17	52	19	3	3	-	-	104	-	-
Diphtheria.	-	3	2	4	4	3	3	-	19	-	-
Scarlet Fever.	-	3	14	14	11	1	1	-	44	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis.	-	1	4	2	-	2	1	-	10	-	1
Acute Polioencephalitis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Notified Diseases.	0-5	5-15	15-45	45-65	65 & over.	No age.	Total.	Removed to Hospital.	Deaths.
Pneumonia.	12	6	8	3	7	-	36	-	16
Typhoid or Enteric.	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
Erysipelas.	-	-	1	4	1	-	6	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	4	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following tables give particulars regarding Pulmonary and Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis during the year 1947.

	<u>Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Totals.</u>
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M & F.
Number of cases on the register 1st January, 1947.	43	28	14	17	102
Number of cases notified for 1st time during 1947.	8	10	2	3	23
Number of cases removed from register during 1947.	51	38	16	20	125
	8	4	5	5	22
Number of cases remaining on register 31st December, 1947.	43	34	11	15	103

Notifications. 23	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
At all ages.	8	10	2	3	2	1	1	-
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 10	-	1	1	2	-	-	1	-
10 - 15	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 20	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 25	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
25 - 35	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
45 - 55	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
55 - 65	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Over 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

SCABIES.

The undermentioned cases of scabies were treated during the year at the Public Baths, Normanton.

<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Children.</u>	<u>Adults.</u>
19	8	19	8

Total Treated - 27 cases.

19 of the above cases received second treatment.

8 cases received a first treatment only.

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY.

Supply.

Water is purchased in bulk from Wakefield County Borough. A maximum of 505,000 gallons per day is available. This water is soft in character having an average hardness of 5.5 degrees Clark.

Purification.

Apart from the purification undertaken at the waterworks, no further action is taken locally.

Consumption.

In 1947 the average daily consumption for Normanton Urban District was 470,334 gallons, of which 411,145 gallons were used for Domestic purposes and 59,189 gallons industrially.

All houses receive water from the towns mains, and three houses are supplied from standpipes.

CONCLUSION.

I beg to offer my sincere thanks to Mr. T. F. Copp, Surveyor, and to the staff of the Public Health Department both professional and clerical for their able assistance to me.

I beg to remain,

Yours faithfully,

J. M. PATERSON.

Medical Officer of Health.

Normanton Urban District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1947

--oOo--

COUNCIL OFFICES,
NORMANTON.

A. HAWKINS,
CLERK.

The following is the report submitted by Mr. E. Riddiough, Sanitary Inspector and summarises the work carried out by the Sanitary Department.

The Total Sanitary Provisions for the Area.

The total number of houses in use at the end of the year was 5,294. This showed an increase of 43 Council Houses and 7 privately built houses, over the figures for the previous year. A deduction of 11 houses was made due to families having to be evacuated from premises considered dangerous due to subsidence.

Number of Water Closets.	5534	
Waste Water Closets.	27	This shows a decrease of 2.
Water Closets flushed by Automatic Tanks.	10	
Pail Closets.	12	
Privies.	14	
Cesspools.	11	
Total number of houses not connected to sewers.	33	

There were no middens etc. reconstructed as W.C.s as all middens, capable of connection to the sewer have been dealt with. One was however, reconstructed as a chemical closet. Two waste water closets were reconstructed as W.C.s and one additional water closet provided to old property. In all, there were in addition 67 new water closets provided within the district mainly in connection with new work premises or as reconstructions of old W.C.s, or due to provision of indoor W.C.s. etc.

It will be noted from the above figures that practically the whole of the district is on the water carriage system of sewage disposal. It is felt that the above figures are very creditable for the type of district and speak well for the spade work carried out by my predecessor Mr. Baxter.

House and Trade Refuse Collection and Disposal.

Refuse Receptacles in use at the end of the year:-

Wet Ashpits in connection with privies.	11.
Dry Ashpits.	15.
Total No. of dustbins.	5500.

The whole of the household ref. from Normanton ward was

disposed of in the Boundary Tip, Jernfield Road. The refuse from the Altofts and Common Wards was disposed of at the above tip or at Foxholes Lane or Wheatshaf Tips. The total number of loads collected and disposed of during the year was 3228 motor loads, 331 electricar and 380 horse and cart loads. The approximate amount of refuse removed was 8,200 tons. The staff comprise 3 Drivers, 12 Dustmen, 1 Tipman, 1 Salvage Man, 1 spare labourer. The cost of collection of disposal for the year ending 31st March, 1948 was £.6219. This works out at approximately 15/2d. per ton, for collection and disposal. The increase over the price of the previous year was brought about mainly by increases in haulage costs, better wage conditions, protective clothing for workmen etc. The new Karrier Wagon was delivered in June 1947, and put on the road on the 12th of that month. This eased the position with regard to wagons considerably, and it is hoped that when the second new Karrier arrives that the whole of the team hire will be dispensed with and our own transport used for all purposes.

The amount of Salvage collected during the year.

	Tons.	Cwts.
Paper.	73	10½
Textiles.	1	15
Bones.	1	13¼
Non-ferrous metals.		1½

The sale of the above realised £.493. 5s. 1d. This showed an increase of £.64. 3s. 0d. on the previous year.

Public Health Administration.

2,434 Visits were made for work connected with the Public Health Act 1936. These were mainly to deal with complaints, follow-up visits, Infectious Diseases etc. The total number of complaints received within the year being 451. In 325 cases nuisances were found requiring abatement. In addition there were 34 cases outstanding from 1946 making the total requiring abatement of 359. During the year 337 of these were abated and outstanding at the end of the year were 22. The total number of Informal Notices served was 264 of which 242 were complied with. The number of Statutory Notices served were 71 of which 69 were complied with. There were

no legal proceedings taken within the year.

The summary of complaints dealt with was as follows:-

Repairs to fireplaces.	21
New ovens provided.	3
Fireback brickwork rebuilt.	5
Dangerous Walls rebuilt.	5
Repairs to concrete or flagged floors.	2
Repairs or renewal of defective window sashes.	21
Repairs to defective window cords.	9
Repairs to door locks, latches, rehang doors etc.	7
New Water Service provided.	41
Repairs to roofs.	81
Cement point external wall.	9
Repair defective wall plaster.	39
Repair defective wall and ceiling plaster.	22
Repairs to defective drains.	39
Renew defective wooden floors.	5
Old well filled in.	1
Storm Interceptor inserted.	1
Waste water closets converted.	2
Eaves-gutters repaired or renewed.	63
W.C. roof repaired.	1
Sink waste pipes repaired.	13
Defective flues rebuilt.	4
Repairs to defective ball taps, and W.C. cisterns.	13
New W.C. seats provided.	1
New W.C. pedestal.	17
Repairs to flush pipe joints to pedestals.	10
Burst water pipes repaired.	206
Broken manhole covers renewed.	3
Dustbins provided.	46
New set-pots provided.	14
Dangerous fence repaired.	1

New chimney pots provided.	4
Chimney pots refixed.	7
New air grates fixed.	4
Flooded cellars dealt with.	7
New ceilings provided.	2
Offences under Rent Restrictions Act dealt with.	2
Dormer windows repaired.	1
Dangerous house steps, repaired.	1
Rain water pipes renewed.	7
New soil pipe provided.	1
New sinks provided.	2

It will be noted that the majority of nuisances dealt with were mainly house repairs and in some cases great difficulty was experienced in having the work carried out. Many visits had to be made to the same property, additional letters to owners, builders etc. before the work was finally completed. Practically the whole of the housing repairs have been dealt with under the Public Health Act, and looking back over the year, in spite of shortage of material and excessive costs of building labour etc, reasonably satisfactory progress has been made. Many of the old type properties however, are deteriorating at a far greater speed than they are being repaired. The time is now approaching when old properties will either have to be dealt with under the Housing Act Section 9, for comprehensive repairs or treated under the demolition sections. At present however, the general policy throughout the country in regard to old property is to "Make do and mend", although I am afraid there are many properties in the district that are only fit for demolition.

Disinfestation.

During the year, 10 premises were disinfested for Bugs, 5% D.D.T. in Kerosene Spray being used. 6 premises were disinfested for cockroaches, 2 for flies and one for silverfish.

Infectious Diseases.

64 Visits were made in connection with the above, summary as follows:-

Scarlet Fever.	44
Diphtheria.	19
Tuberculosis.	23

52 Library books were disinfected and returned to the Public Library or Private Libraries for re-issue.

Other Public Health Matters.

Other visits made under the Public Health Acts were to schools, public conveniences, public houses etc. The whole of the drainage for the new permanent 3 bedroom and 2 bedroom type houses and the last 50 prefabricated houses in Gipsy Lane, was supervised, tested and passed. Some 97 visits were made in connection with this work.

Food & Drugs Administration.

The slaughtering arrangements show no change, the whole of the work being carried out at Sheers slaughter-house under the Ministry of Food Management. It is suggested that the Council make some provision in their estimates to provide a central slaughter-house. Centralised slaughtering has proved itself far superior and ensures a more adequate supervision. 71 visits were made to the slaughter-house for the purposes of meat inspection.

The following is a summary of Meat Inspection:-

No. killed and inspected.	Bulls.	Bullocks.	Heifers.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.
	4	464	161	119	26	1683	28

Diseased Organs and Part Carcasses Condemned.

Carcases Beef and all organs.	16
Calf and all organs.	1
Carcases Frozen Mutton.	10
Heads and Tongues.	49
Hind quarters English Beef.	2
Hind Quarters Frozen. Beef.	2
Sets of Beasts lungs.	99
Hearts.	2
Skirts.	2
Livers.	219
Internal Organs, sets of	3
Pelvic organs, set of	1
Calf Pluck.	1
Pig head and Tongue.	1
Offal, set of	1
Sheep Plucks.	127

The total weight of Meat condemned:-

8403 Meat.
5657 Offal
<u>1,4060 lbs.</u>

Private pigs killed - 23

List of other foods condemned during January to December, 1947.

Unsweetened Milk.	103 tins.
Sweetened Milk.	15 tins.
Sweets. (Mixed).	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Chocolate.	6 lbs.
Beans.	16 tins.
Peas.	18 tins.
Bacon	2 tins.
Bacon	24 lbs.
Beetroot.	2 tins.
Meat (Mixed).	22 tins.
Meat (Frozen).	151 lbs.
Shrimps.	36 Doz. boxes.
Fruitella Dessert.	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ gross.
Butter.	2 lb.
Fruit Salad.	1 tin.
Jam.	1 tin.
Soup.	1 tin.
Flour.	51 bags.
Sugar.	3 lb.
Tomatoes.	10 tins.
Macaroni & Cheese.	1 tin.
M. & V.	2 tins.
Potatoes.	2 tins.
Biscuits.	25 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.
Pork Sausage.	1 tin.
Pickles.	1 Jar.
Fruit.	8 tins.
Pilchards.	2 tins.
Crawfish.	1 tin.
Pudding.	1 tin.
Boned Chicken.	4 tins.
Salmon.	1 tin.
Piccadilly Mixture.	6 lbs.

Several visits were made to Food Preparing premises and two of these which were formerly poor type premises have been made to con-

form with the requirements of the Food and Drugs Act.

Milk Supervision.

There are 23 milk retailers within the district, milk still being distributed under war time conditions. The central supply premises at Roberts Dairy, Eastfield Grove, have been improved during the year, but the premises, as a milk distributing centre are unsatisfactory as they are too ~~small~~. Plans have been submitted however, to build a larger centre.

During the year, two Bacteriological samples were taken for Tuberculosis Examination, both proved negative. 18 samples of milk were taken for Qualitative Analysis, all proved to be genuine. 3 Bacteriological samples were taken and submitted for Methylene Blue tests, all proved satisfactory. Three milk retailers were licensed to use the designation "Pasteurised" and "Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised" in relation to milk sold within this district. There are 17 farms in the area, all the farmers being registered as cow-keepers; two of these farmers do not produce milk except for their own use, 7 are wholesale producers and 8 retail the milk they produce. Two of the farmers are licensed by the County Council to produce "Accredited" milk.

Ice Cream Supervision.

There are three registered premises for the manufacture of Ice Cream within the district. None of the three comply with the new "Heat Treatment" Regulations, but the period of time for compliance with the Regulations has been extended for another 12 months, as the required apparatus is in short supply. Orders have been placed however, by all three producers for the necessary equipment,

Water Supply.

Out of the 5,927 inhabited houses within the area all but two have a piped water supply. The two houses in question are supplied by shallow wells and this latter water supply has been tested with not very satisfactory results, two results being most unsatisfactory. The tenants of the two properties however, have been told to boil all water before drinking. It is not practicable at present to run

a piped supply to the two premises. All of the district water supply is supplied in bulk by the Wakefield Co-operation and during the year, the supply has been satisfactory and the quantity sufficient. Two Bacteriological samples were taken of the water in the swimming baths and both proved to be satisfactory.

Offensive Trade Premises.

There is only one offensive trade in the district, that of tripe boiler at the Government Abattoir. The premises are in fairly good condition and retained in a reasonably clean condition. It is hoped however, that if the time does arrive that the Council provide a public Abattoir that better arrangements will be made to cope with this part of the slaughtering business.

Rodent Control.

The staff for the above consists of one Sanitary Department labourer trained in the Ministry of Food methods. During the year, 6 major treatments were made, a total of 153 bodies being picked up with an estimated kill of 750. A 10% Maintenance treatment of the Councils sewers was carried out. This again proved that there is a very small degree of infestation in the sewers, only two takes being found. 70 visits were made in connection with this work.

Factories & Workplaces.

The Factories and Workplaces Register records 72 premises to which the Act applies. This shows an increase of 9 on the previous year. All Factories where mechanical power is used are administered by H.M. Inspector of Factories, Section 1 to 7 in part I relating to Cleanliness, Overcrowding, Temperature, Ventilation, Lighting, Drainage of Floors and Sanitary Conveniences, Section 34 in part II Means of Escape in case of fire, and section 110 in part VIII relating to Outworkers are administered by the District Council, 26 visits being made in connection with the Factories Acts.

Shops.

26 visits were made under the Shops Act, and an attempt made to get a survey of all shops, but due to pressure of other work, this has not been completed yet.

Petroleum Acts.

Ten premises are licensed to store Petroleum. In all cases

underground tanks are used. One Informal Notice was served under this Act on a firm of Contractors working in the district, to provide proper storage accommodation for petrol on the Building Site. This was complied with.

Housing.

433 visits were made under the Housing Act. Statutory Notices were served under Section 9, for five properties. In the case of one of these, the work had to be carried out in default and the owner charged with the cost. 45 houses were fully inspected with a view to demolition. Agreements were entered into with the owner of 18 of these houses, to carry out all the necessary repairs, to extend the life of the houses for a period of 5 years; this was agreed to by the Council. Demolition Orders were served for 9 houses and Closing Orders on a second 9. In the case of the latter 9, an extended period of time was given to the owners in order that they could make their decision whether to demolish the property or recondition same. All the above houses were extensively damaged due to colliery workings. 43 new Council Houses were occupied, 40 of these being traditional 3 bedroom types and 3 pre-fabricated 2 bedroom types. These were let as follows:-

Houses let to subsidence cases.

New Properties 3 B.R.	3	
Existing Properties 3 B.R.	3	
Existing Properties 2 B.R.	2	
Existing Properties Old Persons' Bungalows.	<u>2</u>	10

Houses let to civilians.

New Properties 3 B.R.	26	
Existing Properties 3 B.R.	2	
Existing Properties 4 B.R.	3	
New Properties 2 B.R.	<u>2</u>	33

{ This figure includes 3 exchanges
 { 4 B.R. houses for
 { 3 B.R.

Houses let to servicemen.

New Properties 2 B.R. 1

Existing Properties 2 B.R. 1

New Properties 3 B.R. 11

13

GRAND TOTAL:-

56

(This figure includes 43
(new houses made up of 3
(prefabs and 40 permanent
(3 B.R. houses and 13 flats.

Amongst the above applicants rehoused were 10 cases of legal overcrowding, three cases of Tuberculosis and 15 cases of bad sleeping accommodation. In most of the latter there being only 2 bedrooms for mother, father and adult children of both sexes. These latter cases may not however, have been legally overcrowded on the standard laid down by the Housing Act 1936. It will be noted that three families exchanged 4 bedroom houses for 3 bedroom houses. This enabled us to rehouse three of our larger type families. It will also be noted from the preceding figures that the number of houses let to civilians was greater than the number let to servicemen. This was accounted for by the fact that the majority of available houses were 3 B.R. type houses and there were many more 3 B.R. type civilian families than servicemen, in fact, all servicemen 3 B.R. types living in bad housing conditions who applied have been suitably rehoused. The balance however, will have to be restored when further 2 B.R. type houses are let as there are many more service type 2 B.R. families than 2 B.R. civilian types. It will also be noted that a further 11 houses had to be let to people who had to be rehoused from houses damaged by subsidence. During 1946 and 1947, 53 families in all have had to be placed in Council properties due to this cause. This gives cause for great concern in view of the fact that new houses are in such short supply. Towards the end of the year a survey was commenced of all civilian families with 8 points or more, and all servicemen's families of applicants for Council Houses. The numbers on the Councils files at the end of the year were as follows:-

368 Service applications.

648 Civilian applications.

1016 In all.

These were summarised as follows:-

From Applicants within the district:

2 B.R. type Civilian.	153	
2 B.R. type Service.	245	
3 B.R. type Civilian.	138	
3 B.R. type Service.	11	
4 B.R. type Civilian.	<u>6</u>	
	553	553

Applicants not within the district:

2 B.R. type Civilian.	14	
2 B.R. type Service.	86	
3 B.R. type Civilian.	3	
3 B.R. type Service.	-	
4 B.R. type Service.	<u>-</u>	
	103	103

The total therefore, requiring houses being 656

In addition.

Applications cancelled.	7	
Untraceable.	16	
Tenancies refused.	1	
Owner Occupiers.	<u>16</u>	
	40	<u>40</u>

Total number of applicants checked. 696

Number of civilians under 8 points. 320

GRAND TOTAL: 1016

The above figures include:-

103 miners families living as lodgers.

141 miners families in tenancies.

41 cases of legal overcrowding.

15 cases of pulmonary Tuberculosis.

17 cases of three families in one house.

In addition to the above figures there are many cases where sleeping accommodation is exceptionally bad in so far as adult children are having to sleep in the same room as the mother and father, or, married sons or daughters having to sleep with single brothers and sisters etc. The whole of the cases were assessed on the points system previously decided upon by the Council with the addition of additional points being given for overcrowding by sex etc. These points were only awarded where there was no alternative accommodation.

The housing lists were officially closed in October 1946 and since then, no further applications have been accepted. There are

however, very many difficult cases amongst young people who have been married since that time and these unfortunate people are not allowed to make application even though in some cases now they have two children. The only answer to this problem will be found in the building of more and more new houses. The position for many families is acute, and in the experience of the departmental staff we certainly see adequate proof of the old saying "two women in one house cannot agree". Housing for the latter threemonths of the year has occupied, I would venture to say, 75% of the time of the office, to the detriment of other work. Each case is treated as a personal case but I am afraid when dealing with the extensive number of queries etc. that we do receive, there are times when our patience becomes exhausted. The present housing position is one of the most difficult problems that I personally, have had contact with. It is a most difficult task to sort out the genuine cases from the fictitious ones, and some of the attempts made to obtain houses either fairly or by other means are most ingenious. In the subsequent report to be made to the Housing Committee a suggestion will be put forward that all cases are brought to the notice of the Housing Committee for discussion before letting any further houses and that it not be left to the staff of the Public Health Department, as at present, to carry the whole of the burden. If each case were represented to the Committee, all the facts of the case pointed out, then the Committee could judge each one on its merit. I will say this however, that if an applicant is turned down by the Committee for any reason at all, then the applicant is entitled to know why he will not receive the tenancy of a Council House.

I can foresee far greater difficulties when some of the classes lower down the points list are reached. In the six points service men alone there are 103 applicants and most of these cases are identical. At the most, I can only see approximately 10 of these people obtaining a house and how these 10 will be picked out to do full justice to everybody I am afraid at present I am unable to comprehend.

Whilst on the subject of housing, there again arises the case of the dirty tenants. These at present, are rejected on the report of the Sanitary Inspector and no real attempt is being made to disinfect verminous families. They are judged fit or unfit purely as it appears as to whether they will try to cleanse their furniture or not. This is a very difficult decision to make, and at present, it is the unpleasant duty of this office to tell tenants they are not accepted because they are verminous. I would recommend as a solution to this, that instead of tenants moving into new houses by means of hand-carts etc. that the Council undertake to carry out the removal into new premises of all tenants, and if necessary, that the tenant have to share part of the cost of this. If all tenants belongings were then disinfected during removal, there would be no excuse whatsoever for any tenant afterwards being found to be verminous in a new council house.

I do not want to labour the housing point unduly as I know the Council are fully aware of the difficulties involved, but I will further point out that this housing work practically doubles the work of this department, and I am sorry to say that some of the other routine work has had to suffer.

Staff.

Once again I would like to stress that the department is understaffed. An additional fully qualified Sanitary Inspector is still required. To obtain a man suitable for the position I would recommend that the post be advertised at a salary not less than Grade III and request that the Council advertise this position at once.

At the end of August, Miss Thackrah the former Department Clerk, was transferred to the Clerk's Department, and her place was taken by Miss Byrne. Mr. A. Sylvester resumed duties as Clerk after leaving the Forces on November 17th, 1947.

Thanks are hereby expressed for the efficient service rendered by Miss Thackrah, Miss Byrne, Mr. Sylvester and the co-operation

of all other Departments of the Authority.

I have nothing further to report.

I remain,

Your obedient Servant,

E Riddiough

